

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment in supplement to the Amendment filed on May 12, 2006 as a Supplement to the RCE filed on that date is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, the last paragraph of claim 10 is canceled since, upon further review of the claim, it was noted that this paragraph fails to agree with claim 10 as amended. Specifically, by the Amendment of May 12, it has been set forth that the discharge confining means is made of SiC rather than silicon. As such, the last paragraph of claim 10, defining that the inner surface of the vacuum processing chamber is substantially constituted by surfaces of silicon except for the sample mounting surface is no longer accurate since, obviously, the discharge confining means is part of the inner surface of the vacuum processing chamber. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment for purposes of clarification of claim 10 is respectfully requested. With regard to this, it is noted that claim 10 still clearly defines over the cited prior art by virtue of defining the discharge confining means made of SiC for the reasons discussed in the May 12, 2006 Amendment.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 520.35237CV4), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By


Gregory E. Montone
Reg. No. 28,141

GEM/dks
N:\520\35237CV4\AMD\DC3329.DOC

1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Telephone: (703) 312-6600
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666